

RECEIVED

JUL 10 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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July 9, 2007

SUBJECT: LOST HORSE MINE/QUARRY

To: Ravalli County Commissioners

I'm writing as a resident of Lost Horse Canyon to express my strong opposition to the re-opening of the Lost Horse Quarry. I want the Commission to please withdraw their order/request for rock/gravel from the Lost Horse Mine/Quarry site. My reasons follow.

ECONOMIC

I've been informed that it costs about \$1.50 per mile to put a driver in a truck to move rock/gravel. It's about 30 miles round trip from the L.H. Quarry to Hamilton which equals \$45.00. Using a 17 yard total with truck and trailer, that's \$3.00/yard. Add in the \$3.00/yard for crushing, \$6.00/yard.

At this point how do we calculate the added, hidden costs of repair/re-building Lost Horse Road impacted from the heavy weights of the haul trucks, county equipment maintenance costs, moving the crushing equipment in and out each winter, and the value lost from significant adverse impacts to the recreation and neighborhood quality of life values?

In the Lost Horse case the material is crushed, moved to a Hamilton storage site and unloaded. In the future for a second time, the material is loaded and moved to the repair site. There are many active commercial pits spread throughout the valley, cost about \$14.00/yard.

Using a commercial pit closest to the county work site would create the short haul and eliminate a double loading and unloading. It seems the short haul and one time loading would be the most cost effective for the county and tax payers of Ravalli County; especially, when considering all previously mentioned added, hidden costs.

QUALITY LIFE VALUES

There is always the debate about the common good. We all use roads. The material has to come from somewhere. Okay, so how does one address that issue? My response is that you weigh the need for road repair/building material against the large, diverse year around recreation of the area and quality of life values the neighborhood provides for the Lost Horse residents.

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JUL 18 1967

Ravalli County Commissioners

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July 9, 1967

SUBJECT: EAST HORSE MINING QUARRY

To: Ravalli County Commissioners

I'm writing as a resident of East Horse Canyon to express my strong opposition to the re-opening of the East Horse Quarry. I want the Commission to please withdraw their order request for re-opening from the East Horse Mining Quarry site. My reasons follow.

1. A road about 1.50 per mile is paved. It is a road that is used to move rock/gravel. It's about 30 miles round trip from the quarry to Hamilton which equals \$45.00. Using a 17 yard haul with truck and trailer, that's \$3.00/yard. Add in the \$2.00/yard for unloading, \$5.00/yard.

At this point how do we calculate the added, hidden costs of re-opening the East Horse Quarry? The quarry would impact from the heavy weights of the haul trucks, county equipment maintenance costs, moving the crushing equipment in and out each winter, and the value lost from significant adverse impacts to the recreation and neighborhood quality of life values?

In the East Horse case the material is crushed, moved to a Hamilton storage site and unloaded. In the future for a second time, the material is loaded and moved to the repair site. There are many active commercial pits spread throughout the valley, cost about \$14.00/yard.

Using a commercial pit adjacent to the county work site would create the short haul and eliminate a double loading and unloading. If the quarry is re-opened, the county would be the most cost effective. The quarry would be a good investment for the county. The quarry, when considering all previously mentioned added, hidden costs.

QUALITY LIFE VALUES  
There is always the debate about the common good. We all need roads. The material has to come from somewhere. Okay, so how does the address that issue? My response is that you weigh the need for road re-opening against the large, diverse year around recreation of the area and quality of life values the neighborhood or values for the East Horse residents.

In this case, what are the residents of the Lost Horse neighborhood and the diversity of recreational use/users giving up? Is it worth it? Since Ravalli County has no plan to protect and preserve existing neighborhoods from most types of development such as this mine/quarry, the debate begins.

In our society, if I steal some material possession from another and get caught, I'd be jailed or fined, a robber, a thief. What do we call it when an established 70+ residences neighborhood and a large, diverse, and established recreation use have to deal with a quarry proposal that degrades and robs us all of cherished, irreplaceable, and extremely important quality of life values? I certainly consider it an inconsiderate theft.

In my calculations, the county Lost Horse Mine Plan of Operations and Reclamation Plan, puts a large truck on the road, with the round trip, every 5-15 minutes for the 6 to 8 week period. It's not just a one time theft, but a robbery and degradation of neighborhood and recreational values every year, ongoing for 10 years plus! The Lost Horse Mine/Quarry proposal is a definite and significant adverse impact to Lost Horse area.

We have an immense safety concern here with this additional big haul truck traffic on the road competing with residential and recreational traffic. Its not being said right now, but we all know that this type of traffic will require large amounts of road maintenance and possibly the attempt to widen etc.

The county has already researched easements widths on the road. Lets build it bigger and wider so people can drive faster. Lets desecrate that established, quiet, rural residential neighborhood to the point of non-existence. Its not my home. There just being selfish. We want the rock/gravel.....So back to the common good.

In the weight of it all, especially when there are many other cost effective alternatives with active commercial rock/quarries, the theft of my values as a resident of Lost Horse and the negative impacts to the diverse variety of established recreation in the canyon is absolutely NOT worthwhile. The proposal seems wrong, insane to continue for what will be lost!

I've lived in Lost Horse since 1976, 31 years. I've spent large amounts of money and time, the largest investment of mine in building my home. I love and cherish what I have in my home; the quiet, the recreation, the wildlife, the only road in a west side canyon ending at the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary, an established neighborhood that is no longer growing, the rural feeling, and an agriculture use of much of the land along lower Lost Horse Road.

In this case, what are the residents of the Lost Horse neighborhood and the diversity of recreational users giving up? Is it worth it? Since Ravalli County has no plan to protect and preserve existing neighborhoods from most types of development such as this, naturally, the debate begins.

In one society, if I steal some material possession from another and, let's say, I'd be jailed or fined, a robber, a thief. What do we call it when an established 70+ residential neighborhood and a larger, diverse and established recreational use have to deal with a large, diverse and extremely important quality of life value? I certainly consider it an inconsiderate theft.

In my calculations, the county Lost Horse Mine Plan of Operations and Recreation Plan, puts a large truck on the road, with the road trip, every 2-15 minutes for the 6 to 8 week period. It's not just a one time theft, but a robbery and degradation of neighborhood and recreational values every year, ending for 10 years plus! The Lost Horse Mine Quarry proposal is a deliberate and significant adverse impact to Lost Horse area.

We have an immense safety concern here with this additional big haul truck traffic on the road competing with residential and recreational traffic. It's not being said right now, but we all know that this type of traffic will require large amounts of road maintenance and possibly the attempt to widen etc.

The county has already researched easements widths on the road. But this is bigger and wider so people can drive faster. But describe that established, quiet, rural residential neighborhood to the point of non-existence. It's not my home. There just being a road back to the road... So back to the road.

It's worth it? It's especially when there are many other alternative alternatives with active commercial rock quarries, the theft of my values as a resident of Lost Horse and the negative impact to the diverse variety of established recreation in the canyon is absolutely NOT worthwhile. The proposal is a wrong, means to continue for what will be lost!

I've lived in Lost Horse since 1970, 31 years. I've spent large amounts of money and time, the largest investment of mine in building my home. I love and cherish what I have in my home; the quiet, the recreation, the wildlife, the only road in a west side canyon ending at the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness boundary, an established neighborhood that is no longer growing, the rural lifestyle, and an agriculture use of much of the land along lower Lost Horse Road.

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PLEASE don't adversely impact it, but honor and respect the cherished, important values of mine and my neighborhood. It is my home that I plan to live and die in. Withdraw the request/order for rock/gravel from the Lost Horse Mine/Quarry. Pursue other existing alternatives.

Your consideration will be greatly appreciated. THANK YOU for your time.

Sincerely,



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phone - 363-4048

CC. Chuck Oliver and Barry Paulson